

WELFARE (KUMARI KUMED BEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b): To meet the requirement of medical and para-medical man-power in the field of ophthalmology for the National Programme Control of blindness, the Seventh joint Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare had resolved that the number of Post Graduate students in the Medical Colleges in the speciality of ophthalmology should be increased and also that the Medical Council of India be persuaded to prescribe ophthalmology as a subject for independent assessment for the final year of MBBS course. The State Governments and Medical Council of India have been requested to take action accordingly.

For training of ophthalmic Assistants in the large number required, 18 Training schools have been set-up during 1981-82 and further 19 training schools are proposed to be established in 1982-83, taking the capacity for training of Ophthalmic Assistants to 1000 per annum.

Stoppage of Train Nos. 5/6 and 41/42 at Gudiyattam Station

10139. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide stoppage for train Nos. 5 and 6 and 41 and 42 at Gudiyattam Station.

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) In order to speed up 5/6 Nilgiri Express and 41/42 Madras-Cochin Express stoppages of these trains at Gudiyattam and some other stations were withdrawn from 1-4-81. It is therefore, not desirable to restore this stoppage. However, compensatory Service viz. 307/308 Express was introduced between Arakkonam and Jolarpettai to the previous timings of 41/42 Express.

Irregularity in Arrival of Trains at Puri

10140. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the irregularity in the arrival of trains at Puri on S.E. Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to maintain regularity in the arrival of trains at Puri?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Late running is mainly due to alarm chain pulling, accidents, public agitations, loco losses and carriage and wagon defects etc.

(c) A close watch is being kept on the running of trains and remedial steps taken wherever feasible.

Project on Breeding Musk Deer at Amalgamated Unit, Ranikhet

10141. SHRI CHATURBHUIJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) is it a fact that there is a project on breeding of musk deer at Amalgamated Unit, Ranikhet;

(b) how many deers have been kept in the stock farm so far;

(c) how many of them died;

(d) how much money has been spent for this project to date; and

(e) the yield so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Nine (3 males and 6 females).

(c) Two (female).

(d) About Rs. 3.15 lakhs which includes salaries of common staff employed for other schemes also.

(e) It is not the aim of the scheme in operation to extract musk on commercial scale in the traditional manner but to conduct experiments to evolve a better and harmless method of extracting the musk without killing the animals. Before this experiment is started the following 5 aspects will have to be evolved:

(i) Fool-proof method of collection of animals.

(ii) Adaptation of animals in stockade away from their normal Habitat of higher altitudes; and

(iii) Breeding of musk deer in captivity.

Studies on these three aspects have been completed. - It takes a long time, normally 3 to 4 years, for the animals

to acclimatise themselves in lower altitude and in human company as also for the animals to mature and develop the musk pod. The musk is produced by the male animals only and the experiment on safe methods of extraction would be started as soon as minimum number of animals becomes available for scientific trial.

Primary Health Centres in States

10142. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in India, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open new Primary Health Centres in the country during the year 1982-83;

(c) if so, their number State-wise, and

(d) the number and location of Centres to be opened in Gujarat State during 1982-83?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI) (a) to (d): The number of Primary Health Centres functioning in India and expected to be opened during the year 1982-83, State wise, is given in the Statement enclosed. The opening of Primary Health Centres is a State Plan Scheme. The location of these Centres is decided by the respective State Governments for which they do not need either the approval or the concurrence of the Government of India.